



Illustration by Walter Fertig;
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of the Shoshone National Forest'

***SALIX WOLFII* VAR *WOLFII* WOLF'S WILLOW**

Wolf's Willow is a much-branched, 0.6-2.0 m tall shrub with young twigs that are loosely covered with long, soft hairs. The leaves have short petioles 2-10 mm long on short stems with evident leafy stipules, and blades that are entire-margined, elliptic, and up to 4 cm long. The blades are usually densely covered with white hairs, more so beneath than above. The flowers are borne in catkins, subtended by 2-5 leaf like bracts and borne on the twigs below the current year's terminal growth; male and female flowers occur on separate plants. Female catkins are 1-3 cm long, while the male catkins are slightly smaller. The capsules are 3-5 mm long, glabrous or slightly hairy, and subtended by a brown scale. Mature fruit in July-August.

Distinguished from other upright species of *SALIX* by the combination of dark scales, glabrous capsules, mature leaves that are more hairy beneath than above, style 1.8 mm long or shorter, and capsules glabrous. The more common *S. WOLFII* VAR *IDAHOENSIS* has hairy capsules and is generally larger in most respects. A hand lense or microscope and technical key are needed for positive identification.